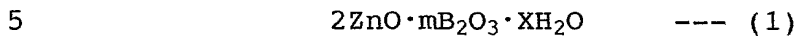


Claims:

1. A zinc borate having a chemical composition represented by the following formula (1),



wherein m is a number of from 2.8 to 3.2, and x is a number of not larger than 4,

and having a crystallite size of not smaller than 40 nm as found from diffraction peaks of indexes of planes of

10 (020), (101) and (200) in the X-ray diffraction ($\text{Cu-K}\alpha$) and containing sodium components in amounts of not larger than 100 ppm as measured by the atomic absorptiometric method.

2. A zinc borate according to claim 1, wherein the
15 individual particles are independent rhombic hexahedrons, the length of a side of each particle lying in a range of from 0.3 to 7.0 μm as measured by a scanning-type electron microphotograph.

3. A zinc borate according to claim 1 or 2, wherein
20 a product of crystallite sizes as found from the diffraction peaks of indexes of planes (020), (101) and (200) is not smaller than 200,000 nm^3 .

4. A zinc borate according to any one of claims 1 to
25 3, wherein a volume-based median diameter as found by a laser diffraction method is in a range of from 1.0 to 6.0 μm .

5. A method of preparing a zinc borate by forming
fine crystals of a zinc borate by reacting a zinc flower and a boric acid at a substantially stoichiometric ratio
30 at a relatively low temperature, effecting the aging as required and, then, maintaining the reaction system at a relatively high temperature to grow the crystals.

6. A flame-retarding agent or a flame-retarding
assistant comprising a zinc borate of any one of claims 1
35 to 4.

T05060" 68241650

5

10

$$2\text{ZnO} \cdot m\text{B}_2\text{O}_3 \cdot x\text{H}_2\text{O} \quad \text{---} \quad (1)$$

15

20

25

35